THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Vessels from Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand and other neighboring Countries do visit the Andaman Islands and sometimes manage to take sea cucumber and other marine products. Occasional cutting of trees is also resorted to by them for meeting their camping requirement and for repairing/ construction of boats.

There are reports of felling of trees in Diglipur and Mayabunder Islands by old revenue settlers and encroachers. The Forest Department maintains regular establishments in each of these Islands and take adequate measures to protect forest and wildlife resources. Intensive patrolling is done by the staff to prevent illegal activities on these Islands.

(c) and (d) Protection of marine wealth in the Exclusive Economic Zone is the mandate of the Coast Guards. The Coast Guards, with the help of forest officials, do regular patrolling of the area and have seized 150 boats and arrested 1197 foreign nationals, since 1996.

Coast Guards are equipped with adequate number of seaworthy vessels and boats for the purpose of patrolling.

Air and Noise pollution in Delhi and other Metro-cities

4611. SHRI K.M. KHAN:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current level of air and noise pollution in Delhi, as compared to that in other metro-cities of the country;

(b) whether, with implementations of the orders of Supreme Court, the harmful particles and air pollution level have actually come down, particularly in Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what effective measures are being taken to bring the air pollution level under control?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The average levels of noise and air pollution in metro cities are given below in Table I and Table II respectively:

TABLE I

Average Noise Levels (in decibels) in Metro-Cities

S. No.	City	Day (0600-2100 hrs) Night (2100-0600 hrs.)	Industrial Area	Commercial Area	Residential Area	Silence Zone
1	Delhi	Day	88	83	79	83
		Night	71	69	56	64
2	Mumbai	Day	76	75	70	66
		Night	65	66	62	52
3	Chennai	Day	71	78	66	63
		Night	66	71	48	49
4	Bangalore	Day	78	76	67	67
		Night	53	57	50	—
5	Kolkata	Day	78	82	79	79
		Night	67	75	65	65

TABLE II

Annual Average Concentration (lg/m^3) of Air Pollutants during 2000

S. No.	City	Type of Areas	2000			
			Sulphur dioxide	Nitrogen dioxide	Suspended Particulate Matter	Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Delhi	Res. & Other	17	31	370	170
		Industrial	19	36	433	182
2.	Mumbai	Res. & Others	9.7	30	241	115
		Industrial	11	34	270	85
3.	Chennai	Res. & Others	8.5	16	105	90
		Industrial	7.7	15	96	60
4.	Kolkata	Res. & Others	14	30	280	122
		Industrial	27	45	416	196

S. No.	City	Type of Areas	2000			
			Sulphur dioxide	Nitrogen dioxide	Suspended Particulate Matter	Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter
5.	Hyderabad	Res. & Others	11.1	13	174	87
		Industrial	7.5	7.7	98	73
6.	Bangalore	Res. & Others	24	58.5	D.I.	D.I.
		Industrial	18.7	27.7	D.I.	D.I.

Res.—Residential; D.I.—Data inadequate.

(b) and (c) Due to various measures taken, including the implementation of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the air pollution load has come down in Delhi.

(d) The Government have taken various steps to control pollution in the country, which include the following:

(1) Emission standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(2) The ambient air quality is monitored regularly through a network of 290 monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme.

(3) Industries are required to take consents from the respective State Pollution Control Boards under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as amended in 1987.

(4) A number of hazardous and polluting industrial units have been closed down.

(5) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Low sulphur (0.05%) fuel (petrol and diesel) has also been introduced in Delhi.

(6) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments.

(7) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.

(8) Low sulphur fuel (0.05% maximum sulphur) has been introduced in the National Capital Region w.e.f 1.4.2000.

(9) More than 8 years old diesel buses and all pre 1990 autos and taxies have been taken off the road.

(10) Government has constituted Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Authority for National Capital Region for periodic monitoring of implementation of action points and priority measures enlisted in the White Paper on Pollution in Delhi and for taking appropriate measures for control of pollution in National Capital Region.

Hunting of Elephants and Tigers

†4612. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that continuous hunting of Elephants and Tigers is still going on in various sanctuaries/forests of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that this is all because of collusion of Government agencies; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider handing over of the security work of these sanctuaries to any other non-Government agency?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Cases of poaching of Elephants and Tigers from various parts of the country are reported from time to time. Investigation conducted by the wildlife protection staff and other investigative agencies like CBI have revealed that the poaching is done by highly organised mafias who are well trained and equipped with sophisticated weapons. There is no conclusive evidence of collusion of Government agencies in poaching during the recent past.

(c) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.